The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is likely to be announced shortly.

Losses of Railways

*56. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI RAASHID ALVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have lost nearly Rs. 2000 crores over the delay in using recycled scrap to manufacture wheels;

(b) whether during 2004-05 Budget it had been promised that 1 million tonnes of scrap that is generated each year would no longer be sold but would be recycled to make wheels in the factory;

(c) whether due to non-implementation of this decision Railways have incurred a loss of Rs. 2000 crores; and

(d) if so, the main reasons for delay and what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, the Budget pronouncement expressed concern about mal-practices in scrap sales. Therefore, it was decided to explore the possibilities of in-house utilization of scrap by recycling it, instead of selling it to outside parties, subject to detailed examination of the logistics, cost benefit analysis etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Research on elimination of pesticides

*57. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware the farmers in Penta Srirampuram in Andhra Pradesh have managed to eliminate pesticides from their rice crop by following a three-step procedure as evolved by their agricultural officer;